THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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A spokesman for the Cleveland Museum of Art said this evening (January 21) that in late September of 1974 the Museum was advised of the August 8 death of Charlotte Frank. Mrs. Frank was a London art dealer who had filed a suit against the Museum and its Director Sherman E. Lee in early January of 1974.

Mrs. Frank's death was brought to the attention of the court by both the counsel for the plaintiff and the counsel for the Museum, and neither the estate nor the heirs of Charlotte Frank have made an appearance in the action.

On January 17, 1975 District Judge Robert B. Krupansky entered judgement dismissing the suit, which had alledged breach of contract in regard to the purchase of a painting known as "Terminus, The Emblem of Erasmus of Rotterdam."

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Given by telephone 1/21/75 to reporter Chris Jindra, Plain Dealer
and on 1/22/75 to reporter Don Silver, Cleveland Press

THE PLAIN DEALER Wednesday, January 22, 1975 8-D

Suit against the museum of art over disputed painting dismissed

A suit against the Cleveland Museum of Art and its director, Sherman E. Lee, brought by a London art dealer, has been dismissed in U.S. District Court because the dealer died last August.

Charlotte Frank claimed in her suit a year ago Lee had given her only $600 for a painting by the German master Hans Holbein the Younger done in the early 1500s. The work is "Terminus: the Emblem of Erasmus of Rotterdam." Lee donated it to the museum in 1971.

Mrs. Frank said she gave the painting to Lee in November 1970 to determine whether it was a genuine Holbein and he was to give her $225,000 if it was genuine.

A museum spokesman said the painting has been attributed to Holbein, although museum officials are not being as definite as Mrs. Frank was. The museum had the painting evaluated and it is worth "substantially less" than the $225,000 Mrs. Frank had quoted, he said.

Judge Robert B. Krupansky dismissed the suit this week after none of Mrs. Frank's heirs moved to join the suit.

A museum spokesman said the painting still belongs to the museum and no private settlement was ever reached with Mrs. Frank or her heirs.

The suit had sought return of the painting.